(c) whether the District Courts in America have been recording depositions of persons in connection will the A-320 purchases by India; and

(d) if so, whether the CBI has been associated with the investigations conducted by American Courts?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) C.B.I. had registered a case No. RC 2(A)/90-ACU(II) on 29th March, 1990. Most of investigations in India have been completed. Letters Rogatories have been despatched to USA, UK and France and these are in various stages of execution. The CBI have been closely monitoring the progress of investigation abroad.

Construction of Restaurant at Goa Airport

1697. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position of starting of a restaurant at Goa Airport;

(b) how many applications by way of tenders were received and what are the terms and conditions of N.A.A. to start this restaurant; and

(c) whether commissioning of this restaurant has been delayed as the same air-conditioned premises are being used by officials?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The space carved out earlier, in the existing terminal building for a restraurant had to be diverted for office use because of operational requirements. No tender was invited for starting the restaurant. Improved restaurant facilities will be available after major modification of the existing terminal building and construction of a new terminal building is undertaken by the National Airports Authority.

Foreign Exchange Spent on Publicity of Visit India Year

1698. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what amount in foreign exchange has been spent by Government for overseas publicity during Visit India Year;

(b) whether this scheme was a success; and

(c) if so, whether they will extend this scheme to this calender year as the first Quarter of the visit India year was disturbed due to the Gulf crisis?

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No separate allocation was made for overseas publicity for the Visit India Year. However, the annual budget for publicity and promotion overseas for 1991-92 was Rs. 28 crores and funds were spent out of this budget.

(b) Due to unforeseen circumstances and conditions prevalent, both domestic and international, the Visit India Year did not take off successfully.

(c) No, Sir.

Computerisation of Overseas Tourism Offices

1699. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether 18 overseas tourism offices are updating their information from time to time and whether these offices keep liaision with various State Governments;

(b) whether these offices are computerised so as to disseminate the latest information;

(c) if not, whether Government would consider their computerisation; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As part of the National Action Plan for Tourism the Government intends to make available multi-lingual tourist information service in a phased manned in various tourist outlets such as hotels, airports and tourist offices.

Construction of Cable Cart Route Between Guwahati and Umananda

1700. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration for construction of a cable cart route between Guwahati and Umananda Island in Assam;

(b) whether the administrative and financial sanction has been given by the Government ; and

(c) if not, since when has the proposal been pending for approval with the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Vayudoot Service to Tuticorin

1701. SHRI M. VINCENT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 640 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5th May, 1992 and state :

(a) whether the Vayudoot service in the Tamil Nadu will be extended to Tuticorin during the current year itself ; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : Yes, Sir. Vayudoot has started its servces to Tuticorin on the route Madras-Tuticorin-Madras.

(b) Does not arise.

Steep fall in Number of People travelling by Air India

1702. SHRI SOM PAL :
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a steep fill in the number of persons travelling by Air India, recently ;

(b) whether this is mainly because of serious deterioration in the quality of services and maintenance of Aircraft run by Air India ;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor ; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve passenger services and the image of our International Airline ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir. During the period January—March, 1992 Air India carried 27% more passengers compared to corresponding period last year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Air India has decided to have a more modern and younger fleet in the coming years. Corporate strategy has been finalised to upgrade the areas of consumer contact, provision of comprehensive package of services to the customer and increasing the efficiency of operation.

Inland Container Depots and Container Freight Stations

@1703. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:
SHRI ASHOK NATH VARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allow the private sector

@Previously Unstarred Question 1082, transferred from the 6th May, 1992.